REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 5 and 6 are amended. No new matter is introduced through the various amendments. Claims 1-6 are pending and under consideration.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 2-4 are "objected to."

Claims 1, 5 and 6 stand rejected.

ITEM 1: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 5, AND 6 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER ITOH (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,233,297) IN VIEW OF GARLEPP ET AL. (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,920,622)

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, "an execution rate computing part computing a phase difference between said input clock signal and said output clock signal based on said INC/DEC request signal from said phase comparison result detecting part and outputting an execution rate corresponding to said phase difference, wherein as the phase difference increases, the execution rate is made lower, and as the phase difference decreases, the execution rate is made higher...."

The Examiner correlates the execution rate computing part of claim 1 with blocks 6-10 of FIG. 2 of Itoh. In contrast to the aforementioned recitation of claim 1, Itoh discloses only "The rate multiplier 8 produces some increment pulses or decrement pulses according to the low-speed side clock signal and stored values. The rate multiplier 8 selects one of a number of increment pulses or decrement pulses according to values stored in the Q counter 7, thus further controlling (in addition to the output of filter 5) the frequency regulator 1 using the increment pulses or decrement pulses as a second increment pulse or decrement pulse corresponding to a central frequency of the system." (Itoh, column 6, lines 9-17)

Applicants, accordingly, respectfully submit that Itoh does not teach or suggest the execution rate computing part as recited in claim 1.

Claim 5 recites, "a mask processing part identifying a single applied mask rate among a plurality of mask rates for masking a part of an increasing/decreasing (INC/DEC) request signal depending on a phase difference between the input clock signal and the master clock signal,

wherein as the phase difference increases, the mask rate is made lower, and as the phase difference decreases, the mask rate is made higher...." Applicants respectfully submit that Itoh does not teach or suggest the mask processing part as recited in claim 5.

Claim 6 recites, "an execution rate computing part computing a phase difference between said input clock signal and said output clock signal based on said INC/DEC request signal from said phase comparison result detecting part and outputting an execution rate corresponding to said phase difference, wherein as the phase difference increases, the execution rate is made lower, and as the phase difference decreases, the execution rate is made higher...." Applicants respectfully submit that Itoh does not teach or suggest the execution rate computing part as recited in claim 6.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been cited or found in Garlepp which cures the aforementioned deficiencies of Itoh.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted the rejection is overcome, and accordingly, should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: Aug. 20, 2007

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